

National Association of County Engineers

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NACE UPDATE

The almost bi-weekly newsletter for Board members & Committee Chairs

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(Note: Sources of information include the AASHTO Journal, NACo staff, Senate and House publications, the Federal Highway Administration, and other association news journals)

SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Bill Passes House

The House of Representatives has passed a SAFETEA-LU technical corrections bill (HR 1195) which would give the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission an additional six months to develop recommendations for funding federal transportation programs. In addition, the bill makes technical corrections to SAFEATEA-LU projects and research program funding, as well as other needed changes to the Act. The Commission was established under SAFETEA-LU and is studying the needs and alternative financing options for the future of the transportation system. It is required to present recommendations to Congress by July 2007. The extension would give the Commission until the end of this year to submit its report. The bill must now be considered by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and then by the full Senate.

Celebrate National County Government Week (NCGW)

This year National County Government Week is celebrated the week of our annual NACE conference in Milwaukee, WI, April 22-28. In preparation for this important week information is available in the booklet which is available now on the NACo Web site

http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=National_County_Government_Week&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=15594&MicrositeID=0

Sponsored by NACo, NCGW was first celebrated in 1991 to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties. The theme for this year's celebration is "Protecting the Environment."

America's counties take seriously their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of their citizens in sensible and cost-effective ways. Environmental protection plays a critical role in this great responsibility. NCGW offers an ideal opportunity for counties to showcase their innovative and successful environmental initiatives.

Southeast Local Roads Conference to be held May 13 – 15, 2007

The Eleventh Southeast Local Roads Conference will be held in Orange Beach, Alabama, May 13-15, 2007. This year the conference will be hosted by the Alabama Technology Transfer Center. Conference sponsors include professional organizations and firms that work with local officials to solve technical problems on local roads

The conference program is arranged by the nine Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Centers in the southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and Tennessee. Topics of presentation in the conference should be of interest to local officials, city and county engineers and public works directors. It should also be of interest to state and federal engineers, consultants, contractors and all those whose work involves the design, construction and operations of local roads.

Sessions will be held on local road construction techniques, encroachment permits, worker safety, concrete bridge repair, traffic calming techniques, crash countermeasures, applications for steel bridges, RRR projects and Geographic Information Systems. A closing session will be on the documentary film, "HORACE: The Bridge builder King", the story of a freed slave who earned a place in an engineering hall of fame. The film is available from the Alabama LTAP videotape lending library.

The Conference will be held at the Perdido Beach Resort, on Alabama Highway 182 in Orange Beach, Alabama. A map and driving directions are available at <http://www.perdido beach resort.com> .

Registration for the Conference is \$150 per person. The Conference brochure, including the program and registration form, can be found at the Alabama Technology Transfer Center website at: www.alabamat2.org

National Transportation Week (NTW) to be Celebrated May 13 – 19, 2007: Please do you part in promoting NTW!

NACE has been a long standing supporter of NTW. From May 13 – 19, 2007 the nation will come together to celebrate the achievements we have made in transportation and face up to the challenges ahead. NACE believes that it is also a great opportunity for your county organization to convey to the American people and your community citizens the significant contribution we make to "keep America moving". So whether it is a county resolution celebrating the week, having an open house of your transportation facilities for schools and the public, writing articles for the local newspapers and getting coverage from them, or if opportune having a dedication of a new bridge, road, or other function please do you part in promoting the importance of transportation. For background information on National Transportation Week, visit <http://www.ntweek.org>. Visit this website for ideas and general information and work with your State DOT, LTAP center, and other industry transportation organizations to highlight transportation.

The Latest from the Work Zone Website

FHWA is advising us of some new resources available on our Work Zone website. Please visit the website for further information. (www.fhwa.dot.gov/workzones)

A) Specifically related to the WZ Safety and Mobility Rule:

- Example of conducting WZ impacts assessment - An example of applying the process in the FHWA impacts assessment guide to a California project of intermediate complexity and impacts is found at http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/final_rule/impacts_examples.htm. An example for a large project in Virginia is available in the impacts assessment

guide. Two examples for more basic/minor projects (in North Carolina and Washington State) are complete and will be loaded to the site soon.

- March 19 Webcast on the Rule - Materials from the webcast, including a recording of the session and the 4 presentations, are available at http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/final_rule/presentations.htm.
- WASHTO-X WZ Rule Web Conference - Presentations from this session and additional examples from States.
- Additional Examples - On WZ policies, TMPs, and public information and outreach. http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/final_rule/examples.htm

Many thanks to the DOT staff from all these States who assisted with the examples, and prepared presentations for the webcasts.

B) New FHWA WZ Peer-to-Peer program has been launched

(<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/p2p/index.htm>).

C) 2007 National WZ Awareness Week - Information on the National theme and kickoff event held April 3, and links to information from States across the country.

(http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm)

D) Links to recent publications and articles on WZ ITS, accelerated construction, and WZ best practices - Loaded under their respective topic areas on the website's left side menu bar.

U. S. Communities Now Offers Office Furniture

U.S. Communities is pleased to announce that County of Fairfax, Virginia, after a nationally advertised competitive solicitation, has awarded Allsteel, Haworth, Herman Miller, Krueger International (KI) and Knoll a contract for office furniture. The contract was awarded through the U.S. Communities Governmental Purchasing Alliance and is available for use by Public Agencies nationwide effective May 1, 2007. Public agencies that are interested in using the furniture contract must have registered to participate in the U.S. Communities program. Click below to get more information on the furniture contract. http://www.uscommunities.org/whats_new/

**RESEARCH PAYS OFF - ELIMINATING CROSS-MEDIAN FATALITIES:
STATEWIDE INSTALLATION OF MEDIAN CABLE BARRIER IN MISSOURI**

http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=7442

Thirty years ago, a driver crossing the median of an Interstate roadway had a good chance of crossing over the opposing lanes without conflict. Today, according to Missouri data, a motorist crossing the median is more likely to collide with another vehicle, and the chances are high that the opposing vehicle will be a large truck. To address this issue the Missouri Department of Transportation (DOT) research several options and decided to install a median cable barrier system on I-70 and on other Missouri Interstates. When the cable is struck, the posts yield and the cable deflects up to 12 feet, effectively catching and decelerating the vehicle and keeping it in the median. The installation of median cable barrier costs \$60,000 to \$100,000 per mile, depending on the amount of grading work required. After the cable is installed, the maintenance costs range from \$6,000 to \$10,000 per mile per year, depending on the frequency of hits. An internal Missouri DOT study determined that the cable catches 95 percent of vehicles entering the median

and keeps the vehicles from entering the opposing lanes. On Interstate 70, which links Kansas City and St. Louis, the number of cross-median fatalities had been increasing, reaching a peak of 24 motorists killed in 2002. The installation of 179 miles of median cable barrier on the freeway has nearly eliminated cross-median roadway deaths. In 2006, only two cross-median fatalities occurred on Interstate 70, a staggering 92 percent decrease.

ROUNABOUTS IN THE UNITED STATES

http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=7086

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 572: Roundabouts in the United States explores methods of estimating the safety and operational impacts of roundabouts and examines updated design criteria for roundabouts. Also available are appendixes to the report, published as NCHRP Web-Only Document 94, which includes detailed reviews of the literature on safety performance and operational models, the master inventory of U.S. roundabouts assembled for this project, and the results of the statistical testing of various models.

APPENDIXES TO NCHRP REPORT 572: ROUNABOUTS IN THE UNITED STATES

http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=7274

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Web-Only Document 94, Appendixes to NCHRP Report 572: Roundabouts in the United States includes detailed reviews of the literature on safety performance and operational models, the master inventory of U.S. roundabouts assembled for this project, and the results of the statistical testing of various models associated with the production of NCHRP Report 572.

GUIDE FOR CURING PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE PAVEMENTS II

http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=7588

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration has released a report that examines the current curing practice and current state of knowledge of curing hydraulic-cement concrete. A separate report, Guide for Curing of Portland Cement Concrete Pavements, Volume I, published in January 2005, details the recommended guidance.

LONG-TERM PAVEMENT PERFORMANCE PROGRAM MATERIALS REFERENCE LIBRARY

http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=7589

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released a product brief designed to help individuals interested in obtaining materials from the FHWA's Long-Term Pavement Performance Materials Reference Library.

LONG-TERM PAVEMENT PERFORMANCE 2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=7586

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration has released a report that reviews efforts taken during 2006 to improve the productivity and mobility of the national highway transportation system through improved pavement performance.